

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8684

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 07157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR, TU, FR

SUBJECT: QUAI "NOT WHOLLY PESSIMISTIC" ON CYPRUS

REF: STATE 054728

1. SUMMARY: QUAI IS ADOPTING WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE ON NEXT PHASE CYPRUS DIPLOMACY. WHILE TIMING OF NORTH-CYPRUS ELECTIONS POSES OBVIOUS PROBLEMS AND TURKS CONTINUE TO BE DISPOSED TO DRAG THEIR HEELS, QUAI SEEMS MORE CONVINCED THAN IN PAST THAT LOGIC OF SITUATION MILITATES TOWARD FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD A SOLUTION. THE MAIN ISSUE CONTINUES TO BE WHEN. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MOST RECENT REVIEW CYPRUS ISSUE MARCH 10, WE FOUND REUILLARD, THE QUAI'S GREECE-TURKEY-CYPRUS DESK OFFICER A SHADE LESS PESSIMISTIC ON CYPRUS PROGRESS THAN WE EXPECTED AFTER READING REFTEL. REUILLARD SAID THAT IT IS TRUE TURKS SEEM TO BE STALLING AGAIN, THAT TIMING OF NORTH-CYPRUS ELECTIONS IS IN A SENSE A PROVOCATION, AND THAT POLITICAL CLIMATE IN TURKEY CONTINUES TO MILI-
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TATE AGAINST QUICK SOLUTIONS. ON OTHER HAND REUILLARD

POINTED TO FACT THAT TURKISH CLIMATE IN FACT HAS IMPROVED ON CYPRUS. MOREOVER PROCEDURES WORKED OUT AT VIENNA FOR FIRST TIME OBLIGE TURKS TO MAKE A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO GREEK TERRITORIAL PROPOSALS WITHIN TEN DAYS TIME AFTER THEIR RECEIPT. WHILE TURKS WILL PROBABLY NOT MAKE HELPFUL INITIAL REPLY, AT LEAST A CONCRETE EXCHANGE IS BEING RESUMED. OTHER ENCOURAGING SIGNS ARE RESUMPTION OF HUMANITARIAN TALKS IN CYPRUS, WHICH ESTABLISH NEW FRAMEWORK FOR DIRECT DENKTASH-CLERIDES CONTACTS. MOST IMPORTANT, IN REUILLARD'S VIEW, IS FACT THAT TURKS SEEM GRADUALLY TO BE GRASPING FACT THAT THERE IS LIKELY TO BE NO PROGRESS ON OTHER ISSUES AT DISPUTE WITH GREEKS (IN WHICH QUAI FEELS TURKS ARE INTERESTED) BEFORE THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS ON CYPRUS. HE CITES TURKISH FONMIN'S REPEATED EXPRESSIONS INTEREST IN NEGOTIATING CYPRUS ISSUE IN SUPPORT THIS POINT.

3. REUILLARD SAID QUAI IS QUITE AWARE THAT THIS ANALYSIS DOES NOT REQUIRE TURKS TO MOVE QUICKLY. INDEED QUAI BELIEVES IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT U.S., FRANCE AND OTHERS CONCERNED THIS ISSUE JOG TURKS AT REGULAR INTERVALS TO MAINTAIN SOME MOMENTUM. EVEN SO REUILLARD THOUGHT THAT, BARRING NEW ACCIDENTS, PROLIFERATION OF GREEK-TURKISH CONTACTS SHOULD IN TIME GENERATE NEEDED IMPROVEMENT IN ATMOSPHERE TO RETURN VENUE OF ALL CYPRUS TALKS TO CYPRUS ITSELF AND SO TO SET STAGE FOR EVENTUAL "SOLUTION." WHETHER OR NOT THE NEXT SIGNIFICANT STEP CAN BE TAKEN BEFORE THE ELECTIONS IN CYPRUS IS, OF COURSE, UNCLEAR, BUT QUAI IS PREPARED TO WAIT AND SEE.

4. AS IN PAST REUILLARD ASKED NOW VIRTUALLY RITUAL QUESTION WITH REGARD TO PROGRESS OF U.S. BASE NEGOTIATIONS IN TURKEY.
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